

REMARKS

Claims 1–8 and 10–18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the Abstract and claims 11 and 18 are amended. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Manoharan during the telephone interviews held January 8, 2009 and January 15, 2009, are appreciated. The reasons presented during the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Examiner Manoharan contacted Applicants' representative to discuss the issues detailed below, and recommended that Applicants' file a Supplemental Amendment to resolve these issues to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 2–6: Antecedent basis for "the noncondensable gases produced in step (a)"

As discussed during the January 15 telephone interview, the antecedent basis for the recitation of "the noncondensable gases produced in step (a)" in claims 2–6 may be found at the end of claim 1 where it recites, "wherein: noncondensable gases produced in step (a) are separated from the acrolein prior to step (e)."

Claim 11: "a value T according to the equation $T > 21.28 * P + 32.9$ "

Examiner Manoharan objected to the recitation of "a value T according to the equation $T > 21.28 * P + 32.9$," asserting that " $T > 21.28 * P + 32.9$ " is not an equation. By this Amendment, claim 11 is amended to delete the recitation of "the equation."

Claim 18

Examiner Manoharan indicated that claim 18 does not appear to limit claim 7 from which it depends. By this Amendment, claim 18 is amended to recite, "The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the methyl mercaptan of step (e) is in the gas phase." Support for

amended claim 18 may be found, for example, in claim 7 and in the specification at page 8, lines 5-8.

Abstract

Examiner Manoharan objected to the Abstract for including the term "comprising."
By this Amendment, the Abstract is amended to recite "containing" instead of "comprising."

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:JRB

Attachment:
Amended Abstract

Date: January 15, 2009

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